

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD, MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN A LOAN DOCUMENT, AND BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Michael J. Dean**, 36, Gardner, Kansas, was sentenced on May 19, 2004, by Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to **71 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.** 

Melgren said that Dean entered a guilty plea on February 9, 2004, to **one count of bank** fraud; one count of making a false statement in a loan document; and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren stated that Dean admitted at his plea that from November 19, 1997, through November 27, 1998, Dean executed a scheme to defraud First Kansas Bank and Trust of Gardner, Kansas, and Nations Bank. Dean further admitted that he obtained personal checks that had been stolen from the rightful owners and deposited the stolen checks into commercial bank accounts that he owned and controlled at First Kansas Bank and Trust and Nations Bank. Dean admitted that at the time he deposited the stolen checks into his business checking accounts he knew that the checks contained forged signatures and were signed without the knowledge of the owners of the stolen checks. Dean also admitted that on February 28, 2002, he submitted a loan application to the United Bank of Kansas in which he used a social security number that had been assigned to another to conceal from the United Bank of Kansas that he had previously been convicted of one or more felony offenses and had previously filed for bankruptcy. Dean admitted that on October 7, 1999, he knowingly possessed a firearm after having been convicted of a felony in 1997 in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the U.S. Secret Service and the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marietta Parker in this prosecution.